

tained in Washington, also of photographs of the fungus producing dry rot in timbers of ships, and especially abundant in the Plymouth where it was strongly suspected of preparing hiding-places for the disease germs.

Altogether the book is an admirable and successful effort to utilize for the best advantage of sanitary science, a curious *natural* experiment upon the power of yellow fever poison to renew its activity after exposure to the vaunted disinfecting agency of extreme cold for several months.

J. G. R.

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ART. XXV.—*Index-Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, United States Army. Authors and Subjects.* Vol. I. 4to. pp. vi., 126, 888. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880.

WHEN the War of the Rebellion was being waged, and the magnitude of the issues at stake, with the importance of the results depending upon it were gradually becoming appreciated, it was truly said, that the contest must tend to develop our national life, and to enfranchise us from the dominion of European criticism and opinion. One of these results, evolved from the tears and sorrows of that sad event, is brought before us in the right royal volume whose name is placed at the head of this article, which takes its place with equal step alongside the *Medical and Surgical History of the War*, and like the other publication of the Surgeon-General's Office proves that in the subject of Medical Literature, America may justly claim to have attained a national development, and to stand in the front rank. A catalogue, like the generalizations which follow upon observed facts in science, marks a later growth and a more mature development in the world of letters, and is looked upon with special interest on this account by literary men. American scholars will therefore anxiously scan this book, and regarding it with tender and proper pride, will congratulate themselves upon the progress of which it is a monument.

Yet this handsome volume of over one thousand pages, is but the beginning of the great work undertaken by Dr. Billings, which even when finished will be but a contribution to Medical Bibliography. A very important contribution indeed, as a catalogue of a large collection of books, yet, as the author of the work points out, it is but one collection, and, that by no means a complete one. When it is remembered that this catalogue must stretch through twelve or fifteen quarto volumes before its completion, it would appear difficult to decide which is most to be wondered at, the marvellous extent of medical science, the prolific ability of medical writers, or the energetic enterprise of the individual who has undertaken the great work of compiling the catalogue.

The volume comprises a brief but most important introduction describing the aim and scope of the work; a list of miscellaneous abbreviations; a list of abbreviated titles of medical periodicals, which alone occupies one hundred and twenty-six pages; and eight hundred and eighty-eight pages of catalogue proper.

As was foreshadowed in the "specimen fasciculus" issued in 1876, the titles of authors and subjects have been arranged in a single alphabet, it having been found that such an arrangement would be most useful to physicians, though for the use of librarians alone, a separation into two classes might have been preferable.

The rules which Dr. Billings has established for his guidance in the preparation of the catalogue are so succinct and valuable that they are given in full below.

I. Those titles have been selected for subjects for which it is presumed that the majority of educated English-speaking physicians would look in an alphabetical arrangement.

II. Where there is doubt as between two or more subject-headings, cross-references are given.

III. Where both an English and a Latin or Greek word are in common use to designate the same subject, the English word is preferred, and references are given from the others.

IV. As a rule, substantives rather than adjectives are selected for subject-headings. Exceptions occur to this in anatomical nomenclature, as "lachrymal duct," "thyroid gland."

V. In names of subjects derived from personal names, the latter precede, as "Addison's disease;" "Eustachian tube."

VI. Local diseases or injuries are as a rule placed under the name of the organ or localities affected, as "Kidney (*abscess of*);" "Neck (*wound of*). There are exceptions to this, in accordance with Rule I.; e. g., "Abscess (Perinephritic)."

VII. Cases in which one disease is complicated with or immediately followed by another, all placed under the name of the first disease, with the sub-heading "*Complications and Sequelæ*."

VIII. When the main subject of an article is the action of a given remedy in general, or its action in several diseases, it is indexed under the name of the remedy; but if it relate to its action in but one disease, it is indexed under the name of the disease.

IX. The amount of subdivision made under the principal subject-heads depends very greatly upon the number of references to be classed.

X. As a rule, the references are given from general to more special heads, but not the reverse. It is presumed, for instance, that those who wish to consult the literature on "Aphasia" will turn to "Brain (*Diseases of*)," and "Nervous System (*Diseases of*)," as well as to "Aphasia," without being directed to do so by a cross reference under the latter title.

XI. Under the name of an organ will be found the books and papers relating to the anatomy and physiology of that organ. Following this usually come the abnormalities and malformations of the organ, then its diseases, then its tumours, and lastly, its wounds and injuries.

A study of these carefully digested rules is necessary to any one who would use the catalogue with facility, and they are such as will commend themselves to all intelligent physicians, and to those who have had much to do with books, as both practical and eminently sensible.

In this volume are included 9090 author-titles, representing 8031 volumes and 6398 pamphlets; also 9000 subject-titles of books and pamphlets and 34,608 of articles in periodicals, and yet their appalling numbers only reach from "A" to "*Berlinski*."

Of course it is utterly futile to attempt an analysis of such a work which is itself a specimen of most thorough and exhaustive analysis.

The list of abbreviations to titles of periodicals, which, as has before been said, extends over one hundred and twenty-six pages, should receive special notice. On the left-hand side of the page is printed the abbreviated title, while on the right side appears the full one, with a short history of any changes of name or other metamorphosis the periodical has undergone, and if any numbers of it are not in the library their absence is noted. The deficiencies are mentioned, as Dr. Billings informs us, in the hope that he may thereby be enabled to secure them. In this hope every enlightened physi-

cian must join. Incomplete sets of old periodicals are very often useless lumber in a private library, whereas complete sets in the National Library are of great value, for to it every investigator will naturally turn when desiring to consult old records. It is, therefore, earnestly to be hoped that by printing the numbers absent from the library, Dr. Billings will be enabled to attain his end and secure at least one set of every medical periodical in the National collection, for which he has done so much, and which is a matter of proper pride to every cultivated member of our profession. Not only is this work a catalogue, but it aims at being as well an index. This has of course enormously increased the labour of the work, while it has added much to its value.

The appearance and general get-up of the volume is all that can be desired, and testifies to the efficiency with which work can be done at the Government Printing Office.

Enough has been now said to call attention to the value of this work, and it but remains to congratulate the Surgeon-General's Office upon this good beginning of its *magnum opus*. At the same time we would express the hearty wish that Dr. Billings may obtain the encouragement and support he deserves in the prosecution of his labours, and that by the intelligent liberality of Congress he may be enabled to bring them to a successful end.

S. A.

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ART. XXVI.—*On Slight Ailments; their Nature and Treatment*. By LIONEL S. BEALE, M.B., F.R.S., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in King's College, London, etc. 12mo. pp. 353. Philadelphia: Presley Blakiston, 1880.

WE venture to say that among the numerous medical publications issued during 1880, there has been none which will prove more useful to the young general practitioner, for whom it is really intended, than this little volume of Dr. Beale's; while the time of the older physician might be much more unprofitably spent than in its perusal. Dr. Beale takes up all of the numerous minor ills to which we owe many discomforts, and for neglect of which physicians are daily reproached, explains them in a rational and scientific manner, and suggests appropriate treatment for them. Among them are peculiarities of the tongue in slight ailments; offensive breath; nausea; indigestion, its nature and treatment; constipation and its treatment; diarrhœa; vertigo; biliousness and sick headache; neuralgia and rheumatism; the feverish and inflammatory state; the actual changes in fever and inflammation, and common forms of slight inflammation, including sore throat, conjunctivitis, etc. The remedies suggested for these derangements are not new remedies, but they are in the main the correct ones; the methods of their employment suggested are those sustained by large experience, and will be approved of by those having had such experience. They are simple and the better for that.

Dr. Beale has always been an aggressive enemy to empiricism or anything favouring it, and, while anything but a rationalist in religion, is a rationalist in prescribing, and he can generally give a good reason for what he is ordering. In consequence, his prescriptions are of a simple